## Abstract

A system and method for protecting and recovering configuration information in a node during a configuration mismatch. The configuration mismatch may involve the insertion of a foreign switch management card into a node chassis. The configuration mismatch may alternatively involve a discrepancy between a hardware configuration of the node and the software configuration of the node. A mismatched node notifies a user of the mismatch and prevents mismatched configuration information from being downloaded to the node. The node utilizes default configuration information to maintain a traffic flow during mismatch while the node undergoes recovery procedures.

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